

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PRETOR 03094 131247Z

46

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 DHA-02 SCCT-01 SY-05

OMB-01 ORM-02 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00 PC-01 /111 W

----- 122547

R 131214Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4895

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 3094

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SF PINS

SUBJ: SOWETO AFTERMATH

REF: PRETORIA 3011

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, SAG HAS CONTINUED TO INDICT PERSONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE RIOTS. ON JULY 8, AT LEAST 132 PERSONS WERE BROUGHT TO COURT IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS, WITH 47 APPEARING IN SOWETO MAGISTRATE'S COURT, 50 IN PRETORIA NORTH MAGISTRATE'S COURT, 18 IN ATTERIDGEVILLE MAGISTRATE'S COURT AND 17 IN WELKOM MAGISTRATE'S COURT. CHARGES INCLUDED PUBLIC VIOLENCE, HOUSEBREAKING, ARSON, MALICIOUS DAMAGE, SABOTAGE AND ROBBERY. AT LEAST ONE PERSON IN SOWETO,

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PRETOR 03094 131247Z

MUSWENKOSI MYEZA, BROTHER OF MUNTU MYEZA, ONE OF THE

ACCUSED IN THE SASO/BPC TRIAL IN PRETORIA, HAD CHARGES WITHDRAWN AND WAS REARRESTED UNDER THE TERRORISM ACT. MOST OF THE OTHERS WERE REMANDED IN CUSTODY TO REAPPEAR ON JULY 22 OR AUGUST 6. THERE WAS ALSO A PRESS REPORT ON JULY 10 THAT FOUR WHITE STUDENTS WERE FINED R100 OR 50 DAYS FOR PAINTING SLOGANS SYMPATHETIC TO THE RIOTS ON UNIVERSITY ROAD IN PRETORIA.

2. IN CONNECTION WITH RIOTS, THE JOHANNESBURG STAR REPORTED ON JULY 8 THAT "DOZENS" OF CHILDREN AS YOUNG AS EIGHT WERE BEING DETAINED UNDER UNSATISFACTORY CONDITIONS IN JOHANNESBURG. THE REPORT WAS DENIED BY THE AUTHORITIES UNTIL CONFRONTED WITH EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT. POLICE COMMISSIONER PRINSLOO WAS QUOTED NEXT DAY AS SAYING THAT "CHILDREN ARE PROBABLY BETTER LOOKED AFTER IN A POLICE CELL" THAN IF ALLOWED TO GO TO A "PLACE OF SAFETY", WHICH IS LEGALLY PROVIDED AS ALTERNATIVE TO BAIL RELEASE FOR JUVENILES. PRINSLOO ALSO STATED THAT "ONLY" 33 CHILDREN WERE BEING HELD AND YOUNGEST WAS 15.

3. AS PART OF THE CONTINUING OFFICIAL REACTIONS (PRETORIA 2999), PRESS REPORTS OF THE LAST FEW DAYS HAVE HIGHLIGHTED DECISIONS TO BRING ELECTRICITY TO ALL OF SOWETO WITHIN 7 YEARS, POINTING OUT THAT AT PRESENT ONLY 31 PERCENT OF THE TOWNSHIP HAS ELECTRICITY, AND THE GRANTING OF NEW POWERS TO SOWETO'S URBAN BANTU COUNCIL. IN THE LATTER CASE, THE UBC WILL REPORTEDLY "ULTIMATELY" GAIN "A SAY IN MATTERS LIKE AMENITIES, HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT OF STAFF, EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND TRADING AND TRANSPORT".

4. ON JULY 9, LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THAT ALL UNIDENTIFIED BODIES OF RIOT VICTIMS HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM MORTUARY AND GIVEN PAUPERS FUNERALS. THE REPORT STATES THAT DIVISIONAL COMMISSIONER FOR WITWATERSRAND REFUSED TO SAY HOW MANY BODIES HAD BEEN REMOVED AND THAT IT WAS NOW TOO LATE FOR RELATIVES TO CLAIM THEM. IT WAS ALSO REPORTED THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE BLACK SASH HAD PROTESTED THE FACT THAT THE POLICE HAD CLAIMED THAT THEY COULDN'T IDENTIFY THE BODIES POINTING OUT THAT THE PASS LAW SYSTEM ENSURES THAT ANY AFRICAN OVER 16 IS FINGERPRINTED. THE FOLLOWING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PRETOR 03094 131247Z

DAY PRESS ACCOUNTS QUOTED OFFICIALS AS STATED THAT 27 BODIES HAD BEEN RELEASED FOR BURIAL, THAT EVERYTHING HAD BEEN DONE TO ESTABLISH THEIR IDENTITIES AND THAT THEY HAD NOT ALL DIED NECESSARILY AS A RESULT OF DISTURBANCES.

5. THE BANTU EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED JULY 9 THAT BLACK SCHOOLS WOULD REOPEN ON JULY 20. THE SPOKESMAN SAID WHERE THEY WERE DAMAGED THIS WOULDN'T APPLY

OBVIOUSLY, BUT THAT NONE WARRANTED PERMANENT CLOSURE.
END UNCLASSIFIED

6. COMMENT: PRIVATE SOURCES HAVE INDICATED THAT SOME
BLACK STUDENTS ARE CONSIDERING STRIKING ON JULY 20 AND
NOT RETURNING TO CLASSES TO PROTEST THE CONTINUED
IMPRISONMENT OF COLLEAGUES DETAINED IN CONNECTION WITH
THE EARLIER RIOTS.
BOWDLER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: APARTHEID, CIVIL DISORDERS, ARRESTS, TRIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PRETOR03094
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760269-0955
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760764/aaaacedg.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 PRETORIA 3011
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOWETO AFTERMATH
TAGS: PINS, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006